

# Summary of National Hunting Regulations: Croatia



Updated in August 2014

## HUNTING AND TRAPPING LEGISLATION/ RESOURCES

**Name of main legislation:** Croatian Hunting Law »Narodne novine« 140/05

**Year of publication:** 2005, amendments in [2009](#) and [2014](#)

**Supporting legislation:** Regulation on hunting seasons (set in [2010](#) with slight modification in [2010](#) for *Coturnix sp.*, and major amendments to hunting seasons in July [2013](#), with accession to EU) »Narodne novine« 67/10

Croatian Animal Protection Law (set in 2006, with modifications in 2013 ([a](#), [b](#)) and [2014](#) ([a](#), [b](#)))

»Narodne novine« 135/06

Croatian Nature Protection Law (set in 1994, with modifications in [2003](#), [2005](#), [2008](#), [2011](#) and [2013](#))

»Narodne novine« 30/94

Croatian Transboundary Trade of Wild species Law (set in 2013) »Narodne novine« 94/13

Regulation on the conditions and methods of hunting, carrying hunting weapons, form and manner of issuing hunting cards, permission to hunt and records on performed hunt (set in 2006, with modifications in [2006](#) and [2010](#)) »Narodne novine« 62/06

**Hunting legislation (web link):** [Croatian Hunting Law](#) »Narodne novine« 140/05, amendments:

»Narodne novine«75/09, »Narodne novine«14/14

[Regulation on hunting seasons](#) »Narodne novine« 67/10, amendments: »Narodne novine«87/10, »Narodne novine«97/13

[Croatian Nature Protection Law](#) »Narodne novine« 30/94, amendments: »Narodne novine«72/94, »Narodne novine«107/03, »Narodne novine«162/03, »Narodne novine« 70/05, »Narodne novine« 139/08, »Narodne novine«57/11, »Narodne novine«80/13

[Croatian Animal Protection Law](#) »Narodne novine« 135/06, amendments: »Narodne novine« 37/13, »Narodne novine« 125/13, »Narodne novine« 14/14, »Narodne novine« 92/14

[Croatian Transboundary Trade of Wild species Law](#) »Narodne novine« 94/13

[Regulation on the conditions and methods of hunting, carrying hunting weapons, form and manner of issuing hunting cards, permission to hunt and records on performed hunt](#) »Narodne novine« 62/06, amendments: »Narodne novine«116/06, »Narodne novine«70/10

**Legislation updates:** N/A

**Authority in charge of controlling hunting (web link):** Hunting Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture (general hunting issues)

The Directorate for Inspection of Nature Protection, [Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection](#), ([killing of protected species](#))

**Major inconsistencies or loopholes detected (if yes please describe):** The hunting season is extremely long. Some bird species (Corvidae) are hunted throughout the whole year. Often, the hunting of migrating birds already starts during the breeding seasons in summer and ends in spring only. The length of the hunting season is impacting the breeding bird populations in the country. There are no special forces in place that control hunting in Croatia.

**Derogations (on EU Birds Directive and/or Bern Convention):** N/A

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## HUNTING AND TRAPPING: METHODS AND RESTRICTIONS

	Legal methods/restrictions	Notes
Hunting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Generally, hunting is allowed every day during hunting season. There are no restrictions, however hunting usually occurs on weekends</li> <li>- Foreigners which already passed a hunting exam in their country of origin, are issued a hunting card for foreigners. The card is valid for one year in all hunting grounds</li> <li>- Hunting must officially be stopped when the game is threatened by extreme weather conditions, such as flooding, snow drifts, frost, high temperatures, fire, or comparable conditions</li> <li>- Only rifles are allowed to be used, such as folding rifles, carbines, two-loaders, pistols and revolvers. Only guns with no more than two cartridges are allowed to be used (any kind of weapons, including hunting guns, must be officially registered according to the Law on Weapons)</li> <li>- Restrictions include: no use of tape records, light sources, motor vehicles, decoys and lures. Mass destruction techniques, adhesives and optical aiming devices for night shooting comprising an electronic magnifier or image converter are prohibited, any electric or electronic deadly or stunning devices, explosives, expelling gas or smoke, as well as air guns and all sorts of cool weapons, are prohibited</li> <li>- The sea and fish ponds are not considered as hunting grounds</li> <li>- Areas with landmines (including a 100 m buffer zone) cannot be considered as hunting grounds</li> <li>- Protected natural areas (including a 300 m buffer zone) under The Nature Protection Act cannot be considered as hunting grounds, unless stated differently</li> <li>- Wildlife crossings (including a buffer zone of 300 m) cannot be considered as hunting grounds</li> <li>- Areas within 200 m of lowland and foothill settlements and 300 m of highland and mountain settlements cannot be considered as hunting areas</li> <li>- Disturbing and hunting of birds during egg incubation and feeding of chicks is prohibited</li> <li>- Destroying bird nests and eggs is prohibited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Special private or public organisations / enterprises take care of the organisation of the hunting for foreigners (Art. 15 »Narodne novine« 62/06)</li> <li>- Exception: lures may be used when individually hunting the Eurasian jay)</li> <li>- However there are some illegal hunting activities at and on the sea</li> </ul>

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<b>Trapping</b>	- Bird trapping is prohibited in Croatia	

## HUNTING SEASONS AND SPECIES

Open Hunting Season	Legally huntable species	Notes
October - mid-January	<b>Phasianidae:</b> Rock Partridge, Chukar	
mid-September – January	<b>Phasianidae:</b> Common Pheasant	
August-January	<b>Phasianidae:</b> Virginia Quail	
September – December	<b>Phasianidae:</b> Grey Partridge	
August – mid-November	<b>Phasianidae:</b> Common Quail	
November - January	<b>Anatidae:</b> Bean Goose	
September-January	<b>Anatidae and Rallidae:</b> Mallard, Garganey, Common Teal, Common Pochard, Tufted Duck, Common Coot	
mid-October - January	<b>Scolopacidae:</b> Common Snipe	
October - February	<b>Scolopacidae:</b> Eurasian Woodcock	
August-January	<b>Columbidae:</b> Rock Pigeon, Common Wood-pigeon	
August-February	<b>Corvidae:</b> Eurasian Jay, Eurasian magpie, Eurasian Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion Crow	

## TRAPPING SEASONS AND SPECIES

Open Trapping Season	Legally trapped species	Notes
N/A	N/A	Bird trapping is prohibited in Croatia

## TRADE AND PEST SPECIES

Legal trade	Notes
- Import of non-native species and their placing on the market, as well as their introduction into nature and ecosystems in which they naturally do not occur, is	- However if the species do not pose a threat to biodiversity, human health and the economy, natural and legal persons can obtain an import permit from the competent ministry

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prohibited <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prior to import of non-native bird species, the competent ministry takes into consideration the opinion of the European Commission</li> <li>- In order to trade strictly protected wild taxa, which are not listed in Annex A of the Council regulation (EC) No 338/97, one needs to obtain a permit from the competent ministry</li> </ul>	
<b>Legislation on “pest species”</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Killing of animals is indispensable during implementation of disease control and prevention, especially ones who have a negative impact on human health, economy and the environment</li> </ul>	

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